

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0139

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3290

FOR MACDONALD, A.I.D., FROM AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, IN

SUBJECT: ST. JOHN'S

REF: STATE 39830

SUMMARY: AS I HAVE JUST TOLD FATHER BARRETT, WE PLAN TO FIND WAYS TO SUPPLEMENT THE PRESENT ST. JOHN'S GRANT AND TO GET THE PROPOSED NEW GRANT INTO SUITABLE SHAPE FOR A.I.D. FINANCING. GOI APPROVAL WILL BE SOLICITED IN DUE COURSE. WE WILL NEED FUNDING FOR BOTH THESE PROJECTS, THROUGH THE APPROPRIATION PROCESS, DURING FY 75 RATHER THAN 76. ACTION REQUESTED: YOUR GUIDANCE IN THIS LATTER REGARD. END SUMMARY.

1. I MET WITH FATHER BARRETT ON MARCH 7 AND TOLD HIM (AND GAVE HIM A LETTER TO THE SAME EFFECT) THAT WE WOULD DO TWO THINGS FOR ST. JOHN'S:

(A) MOVE TOWARD MAKING AVAILABLE WHATEVER FUNDS ARE REQUIRED TO FINISH THE PRESENT MEDICAL COLLEGE/HOSPITAL COMPLEX AS ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED; AND

(B) WORK WITH THE ST. JOHN'S PEOPLE TOWARD GETTING THEIR PROPOSAL FOR A POPULATION RESEARCH CENTER INTO SUITABLE SHAPE TO PERMIT OUR FINANCING OF SOME PART OF THIS, ALSO.

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2. AS TO THE PRESENT PROJECT, OUR ESTIMATES ARE THAT AN

ADDITIONAL RS. 10.5 MILLION, OVER AND ABOVE THE RS. 48.8 MILLION ALREADY GRANTED, WILL BE NECESSARY. TO PERMIT CONSTRUCTION TO PROCEED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION THE SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ST. JOHN'S LATE THIS YEAR OR VERY EARLY IN 1975. WE WILL HAVE MORE PRECISE FIGURES AND DATES WHEN WE COMPLETE AN URGENT DETAILED REVIEW IN DELHI AND BANGALORE.

3. AS TO THE NEW PROJECT, FATHER BARRETT UNDERSTANDS AND ACCEPTS THAT (A) WE DON'T FUND OPERATING COSTS; (B) WE BELIEVE THERE ARE MANY NON-RECURRING ITEMS (CAPITAL AND OTHERWISE) IN THE PROJECT WHICH WOULD LEND THEMSELVES TO A.I.D. FINANCING AND (C) WE WOULD NEED TO KNOW WITH SOME ASSURANCE WHERE THE REST OF THE REQUIRED FUNDS WOULD COME FROM. STARTING RIGHT NOW, FATHER BARRETT WILL BE WORKING WITH THE ST. JOHN'S ARCHITECTS AND ADMINISTRATORS AND THEN WITH THE A.I.D. STAFF HELP, TO GET THE PROJECT PROPOSAL INTO THE REQUIRED SHAPE.

4. FATHER BARRETT KNOWS THAT FUNDING OF EITHER OF THESE PROJECTS WILL REQUIRE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA APPROVAL. WHEN OUR PLANNING IS A LITTLE FURTHER ALONG I WILL SEEK SUCH APPROVAL. I HAVE ALREADY ALERTED SECRETARY M.G. KAUL TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROJECT.

5. AS TO FUNDING, I WOULD LIKE AN APPROPRIATION SOUGHT FOR BOTH OF THESE PROJECTS - VERY LIKELY ALL IN RUPEES, BUT PERHAPS SOME PORTION FOR THE NEW PROJECT IN DOLLARS, DEPENDING ON WHAT THE CAPITAL NEEDS FOR THE NEW PROJECT TURN OUT TO BE. FY 76 WILL, I AM AFRAID, BE TOO LONG FOR US TO WAIT FOR THESE FUNDS. PLEASE LET ME KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU WILL NEED FROM US, AND WHEN YOU WILL NEED IT, SO THAT THESE TWO GRANTS CAN BE FED INTO YOUR CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION PROCESS (AMENDING YOUR PRESENTATION, IF NEED BE) IN TIME TO PERMIT US TO SUPPLEMENT THE PRESENT GRANT THIS CALENDAR YEAR, AND TO MAKE THE NEW GRANT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLY BUT CERTAINLY WITHIN FY 75. OF COURSE, IF A SPECIAL BILL OR SOME SUCH TECHNIQUE WOULD IN YOUR JUDGMENT BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PROCEED, PLEASE SO ADVISE ME.

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6. AS YOU KNOW, I REALLY DO WANT TO SEE BOTH THESE PROJECTS MOVE ALONG, SMOOTHLY BUT PROMPTLY, AND WILL OF COURSE APPRECIATE YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN THIS REGARD.
MOYNIHAN

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